

**“Winning Through to Fame  
and Glory”:  
African-Americans and MSU**

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*A monograph on the history of racial integration and  
African-American achievement at Morehead State University.*

To

All African-American MSU Alumni

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TO: Papaw & Aunt Nonnie,

The main participants  
in this story! Judging  
from their accomplish-  
ments, that was a  
superior pool of talent  
among blacks who  
came here during your  
administration!

Best wishes,  
Don

# "Winning Through to Fame and Glory": African-Americans and MSU

## Introduction

Thousands have enthusiastically associated "Winning through to fame and glory," an expression in Morehead State University's Alma Mater written in 1952, with athletic triumphs and formal occasions. However, the clearest example of this idiom began to unfold in June, 1956, with the enrollment of the first African-American students at Morehead State. Today, the files of the MSU Alumni Association are replete with examples of blacks who have overcome astounding obstacles to achieve success through adversity.

This monograph is presented in celebration of MSU's 75th birthday as a state institution serving as *A Light to the Mountains*. The author's research includes perusals of U.S. census reports, state documents, MSU archival materials, newspaper accounts, secondary sources on African-American history, and numerous interviews with alumni, students, faculty, and administrators with connections to the University's integration process from 1956 to 1998. Three major events -- the integration of Morehead State, the civil rights movement, and the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations -- created an atmosphere between 1956 and 1970 which necessitates special emphasis. The monograph is being published with a desire for African-American culture to become part of the national story, not only for Black History Month but for the entire year.

This document has been written in response to President Ronald G. Eaglin's insistence that Heritage Year would not be complete without a description of African-Americans' contributions over the past 43 years. Assisting with this project was an Advisory Board consisting of Dr. Lemuel Berry, dean of the Caudill College of Humanities; Jerry Gore, former minority student affairs director and now executive director of the National Underground Railroad Museum in Maysville; Keith R. Kappes, vice president for university relations; and George A. Mays, assistant professor of English. My deepest appreciation goes to the MSU Foundation, Inc., for financial assistance and to the MSU Alumni Association for informational files and addresses of Morehead State

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## **"With All Deliberate Speed"**

Segregation ended at Morehead State in 1956 with the registration of two Kentucky teachers at this 34-year-old institution: Ida Mae Ross, 65, of Augusta, for undergraduate classes in commerce and library science and Anna Louise Randolph, 42, of Germantown, for graduate courses in professional education. These two public school teachers were roommates in Fields Hall during the summer session. Dr. Nolan Fowler, Morehead State professor of history at that time, recalled that enrollment of blacks "didn't cause much of a stir" since the faculty and student body "took it as a foregone conclusion" that integration at Morehead State was inevitable because of three recent Supreme Court decisions. The *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents* and *Sweatt v. Painter* decisions (both in 1950) made it difficult for public colleges and universities to continue the practice of segregation in graduate and professional schools, thereby laying the foundation for *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), which ruled that "in the field of public education, the doctrine of separate but equal has no place." The Supreme Court announced in its implementation policy on May 31, 1955, that states must "make a prompt and reasonable start" toward eradicating segregation in public elementary and secondary schools "with all deliberate speed." Although *Brown* did not relate to public colleges and universities, there were strong implications, nevertheless, in that direction.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky and Morehead State had zigzagged over a long, arduous pathway before reaching the 1956 desegregation milestone. On October 3, 1887, Frank C. Button and his mother, Phebe, had founded Morehead Normal School, with Annie Page, a white elementary student, enrolling that first morning. Eight days later in Frankfort, the "State Normal School for Colored Persons," which evolved into Kentucky State University in the 1970s, officially opened to train teachers for the "colored public schools of Kentucky." Meanwhile, Berea



College, which had admitted African-Americans from its beginning in 1855, stood out as the only integrated college in Kentucky until 1904, when the state passed legislation forcing Berea to close its doors to black students.

Throughout the Gay Nineties and the early twentieth century, legislatures in Southern states, including Kentucky, enacted laws to ensure that African-Americans remained totally segregated. In 1896, the Supreme Court fastened the "separate but equal" principle on the nation through the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. Separate public transportation facilities and educational institutions were permitted to exist as long as equal facilities for blacks were provided. As it worked out, however, "separate" was adhered to while "equal" was ignored, thereby ensuring that segregation would remain a reality until the *Brown* case in 1954 held that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." In the words of current MSU government professor William Green, "Whereas *Plessy* had placed a stamp of approval on a closed, Jim Crow-based society, the implication of the *Brown* decision was for a more open society."

In 1904, the General Assembly passed the Day Law, named for state Rep. Carl Day of Breathitt County, located in the heart of the Kentucky mountains. With only five negative votes cast in each house, this legislation made it "unlawful for any person, corporation, or association of persons to maintain or operate any college, school, or institution where persons of the white and Negro races are both received as pupils for instruction." The statute, upheld by the Supreme Court in *Berea College v. Kentucky* (1908), provided penalties for institutions, teachers, and students, whether African-American or white, who violated the law. Berea, therefore, had to drop its interracial admissions policy. Subsequently, no integrated institutions of higher learning existed in Kentucky for almost half a century. During this era of segregated colleges, Morehead State Normal School was established in 1922 to train "white elementary school teachers," primarily for Eastern Kentucky.

Segregation in Kentucky education was first successfully challenged at the level of graduate and professional training. By mid-century, three factors were preventing the average African-American student in Kentucky from earning a graduate degree: the Day Law; the absence of

graduate programs at black institutions such as Kentucky State; and the lack of adequate appropriations to finance graduate study for blacks in out-of-state colleges. Between the end of World War II and 1954, African-Americans in Kentucky began insisting that those in authority comply with *Plessy v. Ferguson* by providing equal educational facilities for blacks. The legislature responded in 1948 by passing an amendment to the Day Law permitting desegregation of nursing schools and hospital training programs in Louisville. The following year, Lyman Johnson, a Louisville teacher who had been denied admission to the University of Kentucky's graduate program because of race, filed a federal suit attacking the Commonwealth's failure to provide equal graduate facilities for black students at Kentucky State. Under orders of federal District Judge H. Church Ford, the University of Kentucky admitted 28 blacks to graduate school in June, 1949. The legislature enacted a second amendment to the Day Law in 1950 which permitted integration of higher education, provided that an institution's governing body gave its approval and that no comparable courses of study were being offered at Kentucky State. In the fall of 1950, Berea and three private colleges in Louisville admitted African-Americans. During the 1951-52 academic year, the University of Louisville, a private municipal institution until 1970, opened its doors to blacks.

Unlike certain other Southern leaders, Governor Lawrence W. Wetherby announced publicly that Kentucky would abide by the Supreme Court's decision to admit students to institutions of higher education regardless of race, color, or creed. However, it remained for the Board of Regents at each of the regional colleges to take action on how to handle desegregation.

After integrating its summer school in 1956, Morehead State waited another year before admitting African-American students to its regular school year. President Doran used the 1956-57 school year in making extensive preparation to ensure Morehead State's successful integration.

Early in his tenure as president of Morehead State, Dr. Adron Doran established a policy of not presenting a proposal unless it received unanimous approval by the Board of Regents. Prior to each meeting, he sounded out every item of the agenda on board members. If Doran detected at any point that a decision would not be unanimous, he



delayed a vote until a later meeting.

Predictably, President Doran experienced acute difficulty in securing a unanimous decision for desegregation. On September 21, 1956, a historic "unique board meeting" took place at night in a high-ceilinged conference room of the old Administration Building (now Rader Hall). After reporting that progress was being made on construction of a basketball field house and a student union building, the president told the board, "It may be questionable for the College to admit Negroes unless action has been taken by the Board of Regents authorizing acceptance. I should like for the board to consider what action should be taken in this matter." The board, including chairman Robert R. Martin, superintendent of public instruction, sat around a large rectangular table as members then debated a motion that "the College be directed to enroll students without regard to race, color, or creed." Doran described the meeting as "one of the most critical moments we had in dealing with integration" because one member from a county with no African-Americans was "reluctant to face up to the problem." The regent asserted, "I can't vote for that; I don't think that the board should pass it over me; I have objections to it; my mother has objections to it; I just could not face my mother in voting for that." But after lengthy deliberations, the Board of Regents succeeded in passing the measure unanimously. There were no subsequent repercussions to this action. In fact, Kentucky newspapers applauded Morehead State for its forthrightness in handling desegregation. Thus, integration of the Morehead State campus proceeded without incident during the fall semester, 1956, when four African-Americans enrolled for nursing courses. By the end of the decade, twelve blacks were attending Morehead State and living in residence halls on campus.

After the September 21 board meeting, the president told the faculty that segregation was at an end and that Morehead State should accept the new situation graciously. According to Dr. Nolan Fowler, Doran asserted, "Integration is right, morally and legally, and there'll be no John Kaspers at Morehead!" (This was a reference to an agitator who led a fight of extremists against integration in Nashville in 1956). Doran also shared his integration aspirations with 50 student leaders, hoping that Morehead State would become a model for other regional colleges in Kentucky and in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Although Morehead State had previously admitted black students from Africa, the fall semester, 1957, was its first regular school term for admission of African-American students. Four African-American students enrolled in a three-year nursing program, including one year on campus and two remaining years at Appalachian Regional Hospital in Harlan. Both Zelma Lee Wright, of Beckley, West Virginia, and Sylvia Watkins, of Bluefield, West Virginia, had white roommates in Allie Young Hall. On the day of Wright's graduation, her daughter, Dorothy Lee, enrolled in Morehead State's nursing program. Annie Ruth Lomax (Juanso) and Doris Eugenia Burton (Mitchell), African-American students from Big Stone Gap, Virginia, were roommates in Allie Young Hall. After completing a year on campus, Burton dropped out of the nursing program to get married.

Both Wright and Juanso recalled an incident which gives a new twist to Doran's oft-stated "bus going east, bus going west" philosophy (a standing invitation for anyone to leave Morehead State if he/she could not tolerate conditions on campus). At the opening convocation in September, 1957, Doran told the student body, "If you have any objections to the presence of African-American students who may be sitting beside you, you can find an institution of higher learning more to your liking further south."

Desegregation of both summer school and the regular school year resulted "not through the efforts of one individual, but through the faith, confidence, and belief of many," Doran stated. African-Americans who attended MSU in the Fifties and early Sixties singled out four individuals along with President Doran for special merit in dealing with the problems of black students who were struggling with integration -- Allen Lake, biology professor; Dr. William B. Owsley, chairman of the division of sciences and mathematics; Victor Venetozzi, English; and Roger L. Wilson, dean of students.

A long-time advocate of equal opportunities, President Doran was awarded the 1959 Lincoln Key, presented annually by the Kentucky Education Association in conjunction with the Lincoln Foundation in Louisville, for rendering outstanding service to the education of African-Americans. The Morehead State president was thus recognized for ensuring "full-scale integration in his college without fanfare." In presenting the award, Sara Rives stated, "The Lincoln Key takes its name



from Kentucky's illustrious son who gave his life that all men might be free and equal. Another of Kentucky's sons has attained many of the traits of the 'Tall American' and has demonstrated his belief that he is indeed his brother's keeper."

MSU built a remarkable record in integration from 1956 to 1970. During this era, the institution accumulated many "firsts" in the integration process: the first regional college in Kentucky to integrate; the first state-supported historically-white institution in Kentucky and the first member of the Ohio Valley Conference to award athletic grants-in-aid to blacks; the first member of the OVC to integrate football; the first OVC school to employ a black head coach; the first state-supported institution to integrate dormitories; the first state-supported historically-white institution in Kentucky to employ black faculty members; and the first state-supported institution of higher learning in Kentucky to compete with Kentucky State (a traditionally predominantly black institution) in all intercollegiate sports.

Morehead State made other major on-campus contributions to the integration process. The Cosmopolitan Club was founded in 1956 by Mignon Doran and Sun Ling Hong, a student from Korea, to promote human relations among all races, creeds, and religions. All foreign students and members of minority groups were automatically members. The club cooperated with the National Conference of Christians and Jews to sponsor a high school session on human relations at Morehead State, attended annually by fifteen students each from Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. Morehead established such an outstanding record for contributions to human relations that, in 1963, the Louisville chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews awarded the institution and its Cosmopolitan Club its first annual distinguished merit plaque for their work in human relations. President Doran credited the Cosmopolitan Club with helping to solve Morehead State's integration problems.

### **"We Shall Overcome"**

Thus, integration began on the Morehead State campus, however not without obstacles to be surmounted. Demographics made recruiting African-American students to MSU difficult. When integration began, the student body of Morehead State included several white

students from communities with little or no African-American population and black students who had never attended school with whites. Many of the white students in one residence hall indicated that they had never even seen a black person before.

In this kind of setting, white students would often tell blacks of the "sundown law" back home, a Jim Crow tradition suggesting that African-Americans "had better not be seen around here after dark."

Understandably, black students felt threatened by the statement. Freshmen -- black and white alike -- had to develop successful working relationships with people from different backgrounds while at the same time learning coping skills during their first extended period away from home. Since the size of the black population in Eastern Kentucky was exceptionally small, the institution had to make a strong appeal to recruit African-American students outside its region.

Aside from students and personnel at Morehead State, Rowan County itself had only three black families -- those of Joe B. Hodge, Grace Story, and George Wright -- at the time of integration in 1956. Nell Carr, who had moved from Lexington to Morehead, was serving as housekeeper for President and Mrs. Doran. "She was rejected when she arrived in Morehead," Doran recalled, "as some merchants wouldn't have anything to do with her and would hardly wait on her in the stores, but she was the kind of personality that helped to bring such practices to an end. Thus, she soon was well-accepted among the people in Morehead as well as the students." She often "would have African-American students over to her apartment and entertain them," Doran added.

In January, 1961, the Board of Regents unanimously approved Doran's recommendation that Morehead's staff and faculty be employed "without regard to race, color, or creed, and that the president be authorized to proceed to explore the advisability and possibility of employing a well-qualified Negro woman to serve in the library" during the 1961-62 academic year. However, no one was hired. In 1965 the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation hired Dr. Marshall Banks as Morehead State's first African-American faculty member. After Dr. Broadus Jackson, a black history professor, was hired in 1969, MSU added Myrtle Jackson, his wife, as its first African-American to work in the library. "Big schools were offering the necessary salaries," Doran said. Located in a county with minuscule



African-American culture or community, Morehead State had a major hurdle to overcome in competing for blacks who might be willing to reside in Rowan County. "Not getting black teachers was a hindrance to our academic integration process overall," Doran felt, since it denied black students an opportunity to have African-American administrators, faculty, or staff with whom to identify as role models or as a source of pride. However, MSU continued to encounter difficulty attracting African-American administrators, faculty, and staff.

Especially during the early years of integration, black students had to overcome racial discrimination on campus, in the Morehead community, and on athletic trips to "away games." Some black alumni felt that their very presence provoked curiosity and lingering stares from several townspeople and students. One remembered that downtown, "There were a lot of stares -- not hatred -- but just implying 'I've never seen a person of color before'." Another former student asserted, "The town and county had rednecks who were jealous of anyone -- black or white -- who was going to college. So, the 'townees' and the 'countees' were jealous of college students in general; it was even worse for black students." According to still another African-American, "There was also a lack of job opportunities downtown in those days -- and even yet." A black mother recalled that while she attended classes at Morehead State, "My neighbor became so uncomfortable that she quit taking care of our son because some local people were making negative comments to her two sons for playing with a black child."

Some local merchants in the 1950s and 1960s were less than cordial during business transactions with African-Americans. Black alumni remember being followed around in stores by clerks "from the very time we entered. Although they never told us not to, it was obvious that they did not want us to try on clothes for size. You were expected to guess as to whether or not the clothes fit properly." Occasionally, undesirable epithets were shouted from passing automobiles. "When we walked past certain businesses on Main Street, it was very common for someone to yell, 'Nigger,'" said one former black student. One day a carload of whites thundered "Nigger" as an African-American student rode his bicycle on Main Street. The student said he was relieved that he was riding in town when this happened rather than out on a country road where he might have been in danger.

During the same era, African-Americans did not feel welcome in some Morehead restaurants. "Certainly, we knew we could not go to the Eagles' Nest," one recalled. Local restaurants popular among early African-American students were Jerry's Drive-In, Pat's Pool Room (one black student stated that he would never have gotten through college without the free meals provided to him by owner Pat McGarey), Mom's Kitchen, and the bus station. For financial reasons, however, students ate most of their meals on campus.

A major inconvenience for African-Americans involved getting proper care for their hair since most local barbers and beauticians had never dealt with a black clientele. When African-American students in the Fifties and Sixties needed hair appointments, they usually did one of three things: rode the train to Mount Sterling, went back home, or taught themselves how to take care of each other's needs. Raymond McClellan, a black student, "brought clippers from his home when he returned to campus one weekend and then started cutting our hair," one black male recalled. Out of necessity, star football player Howard Murphy became a "barber" and charged young blacks fifty cents per haircut. Some African-American female students did each other's hair; others continued doing business with their beauticians back home. When one Morehead barber was asked to cut the hair of a black student, he immediately consented but with the explanation, "I've never done this before; if you are willing for me to try, I will do my best." The student said, "He then asked how we wanted our hair cut, and he did like we told him. We immediately learned two things, however: The outcome was not of the same quality to which we were accustomed, and white barbers were more expensive than blacks." However, the alumnus hastened to add, "He was not discriminating against us; he charged white customers the same; we were just not used to paying that much."

Another great concern of African-American students involved a lack of familiar religious and spiritual experiences in local churches. A former student remembered, "The thing we really missed was that the form of worship was so different. But all Morehead churches made us feel at home." Some churches had meals for all Morehead State students, and "we participated in such occasions," he continued. During these socials, churches would have students stand and tell about



themselves, including where they were from and such things as their majors and minors. A black alumnus stated, "Church always lasted from 11:00 to 12:00. We soon learned that if the Spirit of God had not reached you by 12:00, you're in trouble. That was the automatic ending of the service, regardless." Such formality in worship caused "us on several occasions to come away from church not feeling any differently than we would have if we had spent an hour in class." Other black alumni stated, "It would have been nice to have had a church with African-American things going on like we had back home." The nature of church services contributed to the tendency for black students to return home on weekends, drop out of regular church attendance while in Morehead, or initiate such campus groups as the Black Gospel Ensemble to assist in filling the spiritual vacuum. When Doran was approached by the Black Gospel Ensemble's advisor, he helped make up a list of churches in Eastern and Central Kentucky which he felt would be pleased to have the Ensemble as visitors and arranged for a university bus to provide transportation. "They saw that we believed in them and showed them the same opportunities that white students had," Doran stated.

In spite of how difficult the Fifties and Sixties were, sometimes the "system" worked to the advantage of African-American students. For example, the Trail Theater on Wilson Avenue routinely gave free passes to Morehead State athletes on Thursday nights. As one black alumnus explained, "The manager assumed that all people of color were athletes. When we walked up to the window, he would ask, 'What sport do you play?' We replied, 'Track, basketball, or whatever.' He would then say, 'Be my guest.'"

In 1958 George A. Mays, presently a member of the MSU faculty, arrived in Morehead a day before the beginning of the fall semester. Since the residence halls had not opened, he tried to spend the night in a Main Street motel but was turned away because of his color. In the words of government professor William Green, "This type of thing was still legally permissible until enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited racial discrimination in places of public accommodation." After walking the streets of Morehead and mulling over his ordeal, Mays remained perplexed about where he would spend the night and returned to the same motel later that same day. In the

meantime, a new clerk had taken over at the desk. While standing in the lobby, Mays watched as two blacks from a foreign country were allowed to spend the night. "This really hurt when I realized that blacks from other countries could get a room, and I as an American was being denied," he explained. As Mays watched these students carry their luggage to their room, suddenly an idea flashed across his mind. Ms. Letha Wilkerson, his eleventh-grade English teacher at Wheelwright High School, had required all students to memorize and recite 128 lines of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in Old English. Since Old English sounds like a foreign language to the untrained ear, Mays walked up to the clerk and started quoting lines from the *Canterbury Tales*. Thinking he was from a foreign country, the clerk assigned him a room in the motel.

During the Fifties and Sixties, black students at Morehead State had experienced segregation and discrimination in their hometowns. MSU alumnus Jerry Gore remembered entering the country club at Maysville to caddie for a medical doctor in the 1950s. Since the caddie knew the woman behind the counter, he ordered a cheeseburger and french fries and sat down on the stool to eat while everyone else stared at him. Enjoying being the center of attention, Gore gave them a big smile while continuing to eat. A few days later, the manager told his mother, "Your son was having such a good time eating and smiling so sweetly at everyone, I just couldn't bring myself to tell him he was not allowed to sit there." In that era, an African-American was not permitted to eat in a restaurant anywhere in Maysville, Gore recalled. In the late Fifties, he accompanied his speech team to Morehead State where his teacher took him to the grill in the Doran Student House. For the first time in his life, the youngster could order his food and sit at the counter unnoticed while eating -- no questions asked. Recalling this experience recently, Gore asserted, "It was so exciting, relaxing, and fulfilling to eat in this manner. That incident made such an impression on me that I can still taste the hamburger and milk shake."

After discussing negatives about life in downtown Morehead and on campus in the late Fifties, MSU alumnus Dr. James H. Thomas asserted, "Morehead was not unlike Ashland, my hometown; even if administrators occasionally used improper expressions when addressing black students, President Doran would not tolerate such from others.



But discriminatory words and attitudes were encouraged on the campus of the University of Kentucky when I enrolled in the School of Medicine there in the early Sixties. Going to Lexington was a total shocker. We had felt fairly comfortable at Morehead State. The University of Kentucky was horrible, comparatively speaking."

Because of a paucity of cultural opportunities within the region, African-Americans had to depend on the University to help fill the void. Morehead State had already been tagged a "suitcase college" with students in general claiming there was "nothing to do in Morehead on weekends." So, weekend activities were limited. Milford C. Reid, Jr., editor of the *Trail Blazer*, put a new twist to this complaint when he stated, "There was not a lot going on at Morehead. My teachers were very good, and I found it to my liking that relatively few things were there to compete with my main reason for being in Morehead." Many blacks interviewed by the author recalled no major differences between the extracurricular experiences on campus and in their high schools back home; in each environment, they represented a distinct minority.

But as campus activities were expanded, conflicts between African-Americans and whites increased. Incidents sometimes occurred during the heat of battle in intramural and "informal" or "pick-up" ball games which carried over to residence halls. Dances on campus occasionally resulted in altercations and verbal exchanges if whites and blacks danced together. It was necessary in the early Sixties for Sandra Miller to persuade Marshall Banks, her fiancé, to take a dancing class with her since she felt she had to have a black partner.

The closeness of daily contact in a university setting at times led to dating and marriage between blacks and whites. Some of these couples tell of encountering more negative attention in their respective home communities than they did in Morehead. One interracial couple described their surprise at running into major housing problems and other evidence of prejudice after moving to Lexington in spite of the fact that they had never had problems in Morehead.

Two caveats are necessary to place interviewees' responses in proper perspective. First, there was no "black position" on issues in general any more than there was a "white position." Black students and alumni tended to express varying points of view on questions that were raised by the interviewer. Second, several African-Americans pointed out that

whereas they personally had never had negative racial experiences in athletic contests, the athletic dormitory (Downing Hall until 1978), married student housing, or classroom situations, they knew of unpleasant incidents involving their friends.

Several outstanding African-American students "really liked Morehead State" because of all the personal attention they received as opposed to being made to feel like "just a number." Most of these students, however, tended to sense a need for improvement in the University's advising system so as to provide additional individual attention to "borderline students," who often need constant encouragement to reach their goals. Like all other students, blacks preferred added involvement in the educational decision-making process; for example, they desired a greater voice in shaping the curriculum as well as in selecting African-American speakers and entertainers to be brought to campus. Many blacks singled out how exposure to outstanding speakers and performers had broadened their educational experiences at Morehead State. Still, some expressed the universal longing that "while a quality education had been there for the taking," they wished they had used their opportunities to greater advantage.

A majority of African-American alumni who were interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with their total experiences on the Morehead State campus. This assessment was based on having received a quality education, including small classes and departmental excellence in respective disciplines, a friendly environment on a beautiful campus, and relatively low cost involved in obtaining their degrees. Dr. Lauretta F. Byars, MSU alumnus, remembered the Sixties as "an exciting time to be on a university campus -- a decade of growth, development, and change. For example, I was once selected as a 'TAE Sweetheart' and honored with other sweethearts -- black and white -- at a banquet. As I sat there wondering whether the two African-American sweethearts would receive the same treatment as whites, a young white male walked over to me, gave me a rose, and kissed me on the cheek -- just like he did to the white sweethearts. This was a moment of growth both for him and me." Byars continued her effort to give perspective to the Sixties by explaining, "In spite of our isolation here in Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State was a part of everything that was going on in



America. There was a tremendous movement across the country towards the realization of black pride, and our people were now feeling empowered. At Morehead State, we were part of that realization despite the conservative environment of the Morehead community." Dr. Joanne Bankston, African-American alumnus from the late Sixties, concluded, "Individuals face problems anywhere, but at Morehead State, we were helped to develop our capabilities of coping with these and growing through them. When I left here, I was ready to face the world."

At the same time, most graduates cited a need for improvements in the curriculum, including courses designed to cultivate better race relations while providing avenues for students to engage in dialogue concerning their feelings and experiences with racial animosities. Many pointed up a need for more emphasis on African-American culture and contributions in such areas as the Harlem Renaissance in literature, the evolution of jazz in music, and the entire black experience in history. A lack of unanimity prevailed over whether desired goals could be attained more effectively by having "something as identifiable as a Black Studies Program" or by exerting a greater effort to use existing courses to integrate the role of African-Americans so that the whole curriculum might reflect contributions of people of color and different ethnic/racial backgrounds. However, most interviewees favored both approaches. Some expressed a need for more opportunities to study such negative experiences as the degradation associated with the institution of slavery in order to have a broader framework for developing perspective in the assessment of such topics as affirmative action and racial discrimination.

After Dr. Broadus Jackson joined the history department in 1969, MSU developed a Black Studies Program, composed of the following courses: Africa to 1900, Africa Since 1900, The Slavery Controversy in the United States, The Negro in American History, and The Negro in the Twentieth Century. Enrollment in some of these classes reached as high as 60 and included a large number of whites.

The Morehead State administration endeavored to provide strong leadership on integration-related issues. President Doran and Vice President for Student Affairs Roger Wilson complemented each other in dealing with all students -- black and white alike. The congenial nature of Dean Wilson combined with Doran's charisma and direct approach to

problem-solving were necessary ingredients to get through major areas of concern during the early years of integration.

In Doran's words, "Talkfests more than anything else often got us through those days." Once while President Doran and Dean Wilson were meeting with black student leaders in the Adron Doran University Center, someone reported that other African-American students were protesting in front of the building. Black students had "dressed up" in their "Sunday's best clothing" and were marching from their residence halls to downtown Morehead where they intended to protest their rude treatment by the Eagles's Nest, the leading restaurant in Morehead in the Sixties, and other places of business. Doran immediately stopped the meeting and stated, "I'm not going to negotiate or have dialogue with anyone under protest and under duress. I'm going to adjourn the present meeting, and if you can't dissolve that protest meeting down there, then we are through for the day. I then asked John Demaree, a black student who worked in the President's Home, and two or three others to use their influence to talk the group out of going through with this and to point out why it would be a bad thing for visitors at commencement to see blacks picketing a prominent restaurant downtown. It would have brought a negative reflection on the University." After hearing these words, black student leaders "went down and sent them all home," Doran said. An African-American student at that time recalled, "We did not go downtown."

Doran then resumed his "talkfest" with the African-American student leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss their "demands" for making the campus and downtown environment more favorable to the small minority of black students who had chosen to attend MSU. Issues for discussion included: playing *Dixie* and waving the Confederate flag at football and basketball games where several of the athletes were black; founding black social clubs, which later might develop into sororities and fraternities; creating a better understanding of the black experience; dealing with the insecurity of white students and administrators who had problems with seeing groups of black students congregate around campus, including at the front of the Adron Doran University Center; and hiring additional African-American faculty and staff.

The President immediately made it clear that he accepted only



"requests," not demands. After the document was reworded according to Doran's phraseology, he pledged, "I cannot guarantee what will happen when you go downtown, but I will assure you of how you will be treated on this campus." Not only were immediate improvements forthcoming on campus, but the administration also used its considerable influence on local merchants to create a better relationship for black students when they left campus and journeyed downtown. One African-American student asserted, "Morehead businesses opened their doors to blacks and began to treat us in a more regular manner."

But these were difficult times for everyone, including leaders who had grown up in a different era. Saying the wrong word sometimes provoked unpleasant incidents. When the Eagles ended the 1960 football season with a 21-9 victory over arch-rival Eastern, President Doran was in a mood for celebration. Howard Murphy, an African-American halfback, had stiff-armed three would-be tacklers to score the touchdown which beat Eastern. With his oratorical skills, Doran pulled a term from the Uncle Remus stories to praise Murphy. Doran recently remembered, "I made some untimely remark about Murphy's being our tar baby and that the Eastern defenders could not tackle him and if they did, he pulled them over the goal line." Doran thoughtfully added, "Well, that should not have been said, but I did it good naturedly." One student recalled, "When the President made reference to tar baby a second time, we arose and walked out. Later, the administration called us to the basement of Allie Young Hall and reprimanded us. Questions were asked like, 'Haven't we done such and such for you by permitting you to go to college here?'" According to another African-American who was present, "The impression was left that they were allowing us to be at Morehead, and we should be appreciative." African-Americans who were interviewed agreed that the meeting with President Doran, Dean Roger L. Wilson, and Associate Dean of Students Earlyne Saunders represented an effort by leaders to find the best way out of an embarrassing situation. For a period of time after this incident, relations between the administration and some African-American students were strained. Late at night, Murphy sometimes discussed with Banks how disturbed he had been over the "tar baby remark."

Morehead State's success with integration created an unexpected

complication when Lyda Lewis, of Maysville, became the first woman of color among state universities to be selected as Homecoming Queen in 1967, and the University decided to follow its usual policy of automatically sending its Homecoming Queen to represent the school in the Mountain Laurel Festival in Pineville. Subsequently, the Festival's Board of Directors used the occasion of a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion to acquaint President and Mrs. Doran with problems posed by having the Festival's first African-American participant. The directors inquired about the possibility of Morehead State's alleviating the situation by conducting a special election to choose the school's representative. However, President Doran stood fast in his position that "whoever is our Homecoming Queen will represent us in the Mountain Laurel Festival as has always been the case." Although the directors permitted Lewis to become Morehead State's entry, she was not chosen as the Mountain Laurel Queen. However, this was not the end of Lewis's pageant career.

The University's most highly publicized racial dilemma involved an invitation to participate in a regional wrestling tournament in Atlanta. After Morehead State had been accepted to take part in the event, Doran received a call from tournament officials that Morehead State's Allie Leftenant, an outstanding black wrestler from New York, could not take part since all other schools in the meet were still segregated. The MSU president rejoined, "If we can't bring Leftenant, we won't bring our team because we don't think he's a second-class citizen. Now, if you don't want us to come, you tell me why, and I will call a press conference to announce that we have withdrawn from the tournament because you wouldn't let a black student take part." The tournament director replied, "Oh, well, if you're going to do that, let him come on." Leftenant participated, and there were no problems during the tournament.

A decade before the Southeastern Conference integrated its athletic programs, Morehead State began recruiting blacks not only from Kentucky but from Southeastern states as well. "Our coaches formed a good connection in Birmingham, for example, and we just went down there and recruited all of the good athletes in football, basketball, and track that we could find," former President Doran asserted. He continued, "The appearance of good black athletes assisted the



movement toward integration as people became more accepting of blacks every time a black crossed the goal line in football or made a field goal in basketball. I have always credited athletics with integrating programs more quickly than anything else would have done."

As the first OVC member to integrate, Morehead State had to confront major adversities in "away games" as well as at home. "Our black athletes received pretty bad treatment at the hands of students and spectators in some away games," Doran recalled. Assistant football coach Earl Bentley stated, "Some OVC teams really hit Howard Murphy, our only black, awfully hard; within the lines, they treated Murphy very badly." Once at Maryville College, he went off the field on the wrong side whereupon a Morehead player shouted, "Murphy, you'd better get off that side of the field; they're going to kill you."

Morehead State faced constant problems in arranging plans for eating and overnight lodging while on the road. The first major incident involved Marshall Banks, a member of the Eagles' freshmen basketball team in 1958. While playing in Frankfort, the team stopped at a restaurant. Since freshman coach Ed Lucke operated on a "shoestring budget," he always ordered the same meal for each member of the team. After Lucke placed their order, Banks recalls, "We then waited and waited and waited." Finally, as team members became restless, Banks said, "Coach, I know what is happening. They are not going to serve any of us because of me," whereupon Lucke sprang to his feet and informed the restaurant manager, "If Banks cannot eat here, we will all leave, and you will hear from President Adron Doran tomorrow." The Morehead State team exited, and the restaurant did hear from Doran the next day. "What hurt so deeply," said Banks, "is that this was happening in my own state capital four years after desegregation had been outlawed by my country." Surprisingly, one of the worst incidents occurred in Cincinnati, where an agreement had been reached with a restaurant manager for Morehead's track squad to eat. Upon arrival, they were confronted by the owner who informed them that the team would not be served because of Banks, who was also a member of the track team, and they were asked to leave as quickly as possible. A Louisville restaurant agreed to sell the track team, including Banks, their meals if they would take them outside and eat out of the back of their station wagon. Banks recalls that Morehead State never accepted

"any of these deals" except in a special case in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. A restaurant there refused to serve the African-American member of the track squad; when the entire team started to leave, the manager suggested that he would feed all of them if Banks would eat in the kitchen with the cooks. By this time, everyone was so hungry that Banks, knowing they would have to drive several miles outside town to avoid this type of thing, told Earl Bentley, his track coach, "Please stay so we can get this out of the way." Back in the kitchen, the African-American cooks looked upon Banks as a celebrity whereupon he received better treatment than any of his teammates that day. In addition to heaping his plate with food, the cooks tried to encourage Banks by saying, "Don't worry about it." Understandably, the eighteen-year-old athlete was subdued while this episode unfolded. Thus, Banks, who says, "My sports hero was always Jackie Robinson," was demonstrating traits which Robinson had successfully employed a decade earlier in integrating professional baseball.

Morehead State also experienced major problems in working out travel arrangements for its football team because of the presence of Howard Murphy, the first African-American football player in the OVC. During a trip to play Tennessee Tech the owner of a small motel near Cookeville, Tennessee, promised sufficient rooms for the Morehead team until he learned that the roster included players from "various places like Alabama, Kentucky, New York, Tennessee, and one dark-complexioned Puerto Rican," an obvious reference to Murphy, who was actually from Springfield, Ohio. The owner then insisted that Morehead State would have to rent the entire motel in order to stay there. The institution had no alternative but to accept this arrangement in spite of paying for rooms which were not needed.

While coping with integration problems off-campus, Morehead State itself made some regrettable decisions as measured by today's standards. When Banks joined the varsity basketball squad in his sophomore year (freshmen could not play on the varsity team at that time), Coach Bob Laughlin reportedly seemed less than enthusiastic about his presence and talents. Banks had averaged 22 points during his senior year at Booker T. Washington, which was ranked in the "Top Ten" among the state's high schools in spite of having only 22 boys in grades 9-12. "Although I finished as salutatorian in a class of eight



students, I almost did not finish in the upper third of my class," Banks recalled. In spite of possessing excellent grades and impressive basketball credentials, Banks was still not recruited in the usual manner. Instead, he came to Morehead State largely because of a personal relationship between his high school principal, C. B. Nuckolls, and President Doran and also because one of Morehead's regents from Ashland had taken a special interest in him.

Tensions began during pre-season in 1959 when Banks was assigned a locker in a separate area from the rest of the team until Doran's intervention prevented an embarrassment to Morehead State. Also, two team pictures were made -- one including Banks and the other without him. After playing in four home games, the Eagles were preparing to leave for Bowling Green for their first road trip of the season. The team trainer was sent to inform Banks that he would not be going to Western Kentucky. Realizing that the trainer was "very embarrassed" at having to pass this message to a player, Banks confronted his coach, who informed him that this decision had been made because of difficulty in arranging dining/lodging accommodations. The black athlete protested, "That's strange since I have just returned from a track meet in Bowling Green, where we experienced no difficulties whatsoever." After the Eagles were trounced 100-68 by Western Kentucky, Banks took the situation to Doran who again sided with the athlete. But by this time, Banks concluded that he was being repeatedly told one thing by the president and another by his coach. He then left for Ashland to spend Christmas vacation at home. Acting on advice from his father, he concluded that the head basketball coach was "reluctant to have me on the team" and decided to return to Morehead State to participate in track -- not basketball -- since President Doran had assured him that his scholarship was good for four years. He would thus be able to compete in track and get his degree, which was his chief reason for being in school. Banks excelled in track, setting a Kentucky record in the 100-yard dash and remaining unbeaten in dual meets in the 220-yard dash during his career, winning this event three years in a row. His time of 21.9 seconds for the event persisted as the conference record for a long time. Banks' greatest thrill as an athlete came as a senior when he had a double in the Ohio Valley Conference meet, winning both the 100- and the 220-yard dashes.



Another African-American student who was close to the track program pointed out that Earl Bentley, track coach during Banks' last three years, "was open to his black players' needs and if anything of a bad nature ever came up, he handled it. All of this was a pleasant surprise to us since we knew about Bentley's deep Southern background."

Banks still wonders what would have happened in his basketball career if he had "stuck it out." His head coach reportedly told him on different occasions that he was not good enough to play on the varsity. Known for his defensive prowess and scoring ability, Banks recalls one practice session in which he was stealing the ball repeatedly from "his man" until finally he was told to "back off and let us play," a story confirmed by two others who were present. Two of Morehead State's basketball coaches at that time stated, "Yes, Banks was good enough as a sophomore to be on the squad. He definitely had a future on the team." The black athlete himself readily admits that he should not have been on the first team since Morehead State was loaded with talented guards including Herbie Triplett, Granville (Granny) Williams, and Henderson (Hecky) Thompson, but he remains confident that his outstanding high school and freshman credentials entitled him to a position on the roster. When asked whether he would go to Morehead State if he had it to do over, Banks replied, "Yes, if I had an opportunity to play basketball."

In two interviews, Banks placed Morehead State's experiences with integration into perspective. "My problems with Coach Laughlin always had to do with the fact that he did not recruit me. His every action suggested, 'That was the president's decision, not mine.'" Banks continued, "We grew up in a segregated situation and now understood that the transition was taking place. It was a very, very slow process. President Doran was making these efforts to integrate, but the "tar baby" remark zapped the credibility he had with us; then, we backed off and cautiously asked, 'Are things really changing?' We concluded that in spite of the unwise remark, what Adron Doran was doing was super as he was taking a brave step. The University of Kentucky should have been in the lead on integration, but they did not step in. Doran did. Whereas schools like Mississippi, Alabama, and Oklahoma responded to mandates from the NAACP, Doran went ahead without having a mandate."

Meanwhile, African-American students created organizations on

campus to help fulfill specific needs. For example, they founded the Black Student Coalition in 1978 which was comprised of the black student body but with membership open to all students regardless of race, religion, and creed. Its main purpose was to instill a sense of brotherhood and leadership and to make students aware of black contributions through a variety of educational and social activities. While this venture was intended to incorporate groups like the Black Gospel Ensemble with black fraternities and sororities, one administrator feared that uniting African-Americans might produce a backlash among whites, resulting in the reappearance of such things as the "N word" on campus, thereby negating some of the progress which had previously been made. After opposing the formation of the Black Student Coalition in several conversations with student leaders, the concerned administrator capitulated when the Black Student Coalition started bringing to campus such speakers as Jack Givens, All-American basketball star from the University of Kentucky's 1978 national champions, and Patricia Russell, outstanding African-American orator, who were heroes identifiable with any race.

For three decades, Morehead State students had periodically expressed a desire for fraternities and sororities. Finally, the Greek system of national sororities and fraternities came to the MSU campus in the late Sixties. It was necessary for each organization to have a faculty member willing to serve as sponsor and a constitution approved by the Student Life Committee and filed with the vice president for student affairs. In several cases, existing campus organizations became chapters within the national Greek system. At first, blacks found it difficult to be accepted by predominantly white organizations. While a few African-American students joined such groups, most of those who were interviewed preferred separate Greek sororities and fraternities for blacks rather than having a few blacks "lose their identity" in existing groups. J. J. Marks, of Flemingsburg, a transfer student from Kentucky State, was the first to become a major advocate for separate black fraternities and sororities. Many felt that having their own organizations would help build a sense of community and establish a base for fostering cultural activities. African-American students had to grapple with the problem of finding a white faculty member willing to sponsor their sorority since there were no black females on the faculty



at that time. As had been true with earlier problems related to the integration of athletics, a white faculty member stepped forward to lead the way. Lola R. Crosthwaite, sociology teacher, agreed to sponsor the first black sorority.

Beginning in 1968, chapters of four African-American national sororities and four national fraternities were started on the campus of MSU. Alpha Omega Iota was formed as the first African-American Greek-letter sorority at Morehead State; it later became Delta Sigma Theta. Founded in 1913 at Howard University with the public motto, "Intelligence is the torch of wisdom," this sorority adopted scholarship, sisterhood, and public service as its primary goals. Delta Sigma Theta promoted such volunteer efforts as the Morehead Homeless Shelter, Morehead Treatment Center, and Habitat for Humanity. The sorority's activities also included the Delta Dating Game and the Mr. Delta Contest.

The Eta Rho chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha was chartered at MSU in 1973. Founded in 1908 at Howard University, the group's focus is on academic achievement, intellectual development, and sisterhood. Alpha Kappa Alpha places emphasis on strengthening the African-American family, education, health concerns, and global perspectives. The sorority also joins with Delta Sigma Theta in sponsoring a book sale to finance a scholarship.

Chartered at MSU in 1994 as the Xi Gamma chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho stands out as the only black sorority that was born on a predominantly white campus -- Butler University in 1922. This sorority is committed to academic excellence and connects with the community through such service projects as March of Dimes, Project Big Book Bag, and the provision of school supplies for needy children.

Zeta Phi Beta sorority was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1920. In 1997, the Delta Pi chapter was chartered at MSU. Zeta Phi Beta sponsors In-School Girl Scout Volunteers, clothing drives for Rowan County, the Adopt-A-Child Holiday celebration for children living in family housing at MSU, and a scholastic pageant with "book certificates" for MSU students.

The two oldest African-American Greek-letter organizations for men on the MSU campus are both currently inactive. These are the Zeta Lambda chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and the Psi Beta chapter of Omega



Psi Phi, both of which were chartered in 1971. Started at MSU in 1978, the Xi Alpha chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha is the oldest active African-American Greek-letter fraternity on campus. Founded in 1906 at Cornell University, Alpha Phi Alpha was the first African-American collegiate Greek-letter fraternity in the United States. This fraternity supports such organizations as Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lexington, Saint Claire Cancer Treatment Center, and Gateway Homeless Shelter. Recently, Alpha Phi Alpha started a Big Brother program for single mothers with male children and performed the first-ever Community Service Week at MSU.

Phi Beta Sigma currently is the only other active African-American fraternity on the MSU campus. The Alpha Nu chapter was chartered at Morehead State in 1989. Its community service projects include clothing drives for Gateway Homeless Shelter, canned food drives, fund-raising with Pi Kappa Phi's PUSH, Cardinal Key Walk-A-Thon for cancer, and reading stories at local schools. The group is also active in such annual events as the Poetry Spotlight, the Sigma Ball, and Blue-Month.

African-American organizations, both Greek and non-Greek, thus began on the Morehead State campus in the Sixties and continued to develop down to the present. Although their leaders have been advocates for appropriate causes involving black students, faculty, and staff, African-Americans have been more impressed with the responses of certain administrative leaders than with others.

During his presidency, Herb. F. Reinhard, Jr. (1984-86) expressed his intention to add ten additional African-American faculty and staff members by the end of 1985 and three more by the end of 1986. However, Reinhard's tenure witnessed a decline in the University's overall enrollment, which reduced needs for additional personnel -- black or white. After Reinhard failed to get his two-year contract renewed, nothing came of his goals. Blacks had great confidence that Reinhard would recruit additional minorities -- both employees and students, "but he was not here long enough to carry such out," one person said. Dr. Broadus Jackson, stated, "Reinhard was trying in the Eighties to complete what Doran had started in the Sixties; therefore, I had a lot of respect for him as a person. Unlike Doran, Reinhard was not a diplomat." After Reinhard elevated Jackson in 1985 to serve as the first African-American to chair a department (geography, government,

and history), President C. Nelson Grote, in 1992, hired the first African-American to come to MSU for the purpose of serving as a departmental chair. William (Bill) J. Mosley arrived on the MSU campus as head of the elementary, reading, and special education department the same semester that Ronald G. Eaglin became president. Mosley had been director of the Center of the Preparation of Educators of Minority Children at Western Illinois University. A former teacher in Indiana and Tennessee public schools, he earned his doctorate in special education from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and a bachelor's degree from Fisk University. Mosley served as departmental chairman at Morehead State until his untimely death in 1994.

Morehead State's current service region consists of 22 counties, stretching from the Ohio River southward to the Tennessee state line and from the Big Sandy River westward to Mount Sterling. Three of these counties even yet have no black residents while seventeen of them include fewer than 1% African-American population. The only counties with more than 1% are: Bath, Boyd, Mason, Menifee, and Montgomery.

Since 1980, African-American enrollment at MSU has fluctuated from a low of 129 students in 1986 to a high of 309 in 1998-99 in the Eaglin administration, which has multiplied its efforts to recruit blacks. The "low" is attributed to African-American students being upset over Morehead State's refusal to extend President Reinhard's contract beyond two years. After maintaining a much higher ratio of African-American males to females throughout the Eighties, MSU experienced a slight preponderance of females from 1993 through 1995. As total enrollment dropped from 9,169 in 1992-93 to 8,263 in 1998-99, the number of African-American students increased slightly, from 304 to 309, which is 3.74% of the total student body.

One problem constantly facing MSU administrations has been the hiring of additional African-American faculty and staff. Four factors have consistently made the recruitment and retention of black faculty and staff difficult: Few African-Americans live in Morehead State's service region; small numbers of blacks are trained to teach in certain college disciplines, such as the sciences and mathematics; the Morehead State budget is insufficient to compete with major institutions to match the



large salaries sometimes offered to black personnel who are available; and there is no African-American community in Morehead or Rowan County to attract candidates.

MSU has experienced difficulty in keeping African-American faculty and staff over a long period of time. During a five-year period in the Eighties, MSU hired 51 blacks while 51 also left. This tendency has made it even more difficult to reach and maintain desired goals. In the fall semester, 1998, the Morehead State faculty included 11 blacks in full-time positions out of a total of 321, and the MSU staff included 24 blacks in full-time positions out of a total of 668. Currently, black representation among executive/administrative positions at MSU is three out of a total of 48.

The Eaglin administration hired two African-American administrators in 1995. Dr. Lemuel Berry, Jr., dean of the Caudill College of Humanities, is the highest ranking African-American administrator ever at MSU. His academic training includes a bachelor's degree from Livingstone College (1969) and both master's (1970) and doctoral degrees (1973) from the University of Iowa (all in music education). Before coming to MSU, Berry served in administrative positions at Virginia State University, the University of Memphis, Mercy College, Alabama State University, Langston University, and Fayetteville State University. While at Alabama State, he was selected Outstanding Teacher of the Year (1984). Berry has conducted research, seminars, and workshops in the Bahamas, Canada, Germany, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and the People's Republic of China. He is founder and executive director of the National Association of African-American Studies and the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies as well as president of the Southern Conference on Afro-American Studies and the Research Association of Minority Professors. Supported by the MSU administration, Berry is promoting multicultural diversity through initiating collaborative agreements with several international universities. Joint academic programs are being developed with nine universities in the People's Republic of China, two colleges in Malaysia, and one university in South Korea. These efforts, which include faculty and student exchange as well as short study tours, have been instrumental in increasing MSU's recruitment of international students.

Francene Botts-Butler, current director of multicultural student



services, affirmative action officer, and coordinator for the Americans with Disabilities Act, received her bachelor's degree from Kentucky State University, her master's degree from Bowling Green State, and her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Kentucky. Her past positions included being director of affirmative action programs at Oklahoma State University, attorney for the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, and cooperative education intern with the Social Security Administration. She has also presented workshops on diversity, sexual harassment, affirmative action, and equal employment opportunity. Botts-Butler presently is the Diversity Director for the Society of Human Resource Management (Kentucky chapter), chair of the By-Laws Committee for the Kentucky College and University Personnel Association, and is active with the National Association of College and University Attorneys and the American Association for Affirmative Action. She is also a practicing member of the Kentucky Bar and a member of the Kentucky Bar Association.

While commending MSU for its progress to date, current Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Moore has strategies for improvement of the total environment. "Although we are within the Council on Postsecondary Education's goals," he asserted, "we need to be doing a lot more. We need to keep hiring African-Americans because it is the right thing to do. This is difficult. Only a small percentage of African-Americans earn terminal degrees with the intention of teaching in institutions of higher education, and most of them want to be in a more diverse society than the town of Morehead offers. Although it is Catch-22, we must keep our nose to the grindstone and not give up. Institutions still use offers of higher salaries in competition for black faculty. I have a problem with saying that salaries are unlimited in order to compete for certain personnel because that drives faculty morale down for others. But we will make every effort to raise existing salaries." Moore also feels that constant efforts to build an African-American community in Morehead will entice other black faculty and staff members to come to MSU and remain for extended periods of time. He stated, "We need to make the total community more attractive for African-Americans. We need to collaborate things with Saint Claire Medical Center and other employers to try to bring more African-Americans to the community." To this end, Francene Botts-

Butler pointed out, "One of the main issues is the need to create a program to help spouses to find work in Morehead or surrounding communities."

MSU administrative officials are in agreement that one of the best ways to build up the African-American faculty is to take some African-Americans who are already here and assist them with getting their terminal degrees. For example, Yolanda M. Scott, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, earned her bachelor's degree from MSU (1990) and her master's degree (1992), and is expected to receive a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Kentucky in 1999. After teaching sociology during the summer, 1992, at Mount Aloysius Junior College (Pennsylvania), Scott worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of Kentucky (1992-96) and as a teaching assistant (1996-97). She has twice presented papers at the American Society of Criminology. Scott is presently a member of the planning committee for a proposed new Black Studies Program at MSU. Her honors include being recipient of the Reser Scholarship/Academic Award at MSU in 1991 and being named the outstanding graduate student at MSU in 1992. She received a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship as a Joint-fellow from MSU and UK from 1992 to 1997.

Two African-Americans have been mainstays on the MSU faculty since the Sixties. George A. Mays, who received a bachelor's degree at Morehead State (1962) and two master's degrees (1963, 1968) and subsequently has earned 47 graduate hours, has taught English at MSU since 1968 after serving as a public school teacher for five years in Ohio and Michigan. A native of Floyd County, Mays enrolled as a student at Morehead State in 1958. A colleague once summed up his effectiveness as a teacher by observing, "Students seldom drop Mr. Mays' classes; even those experiencing difficulty remain until the semester closes." Mays recently shared his teaching philosophy by asserting, "Not only must we serve the academic needs of the students; we should be committed to their social development as well." While at MSU, Mays has also taught classes in the Woodsbend Boys Camp, a prison system for teen felons in Morgan County. After completing classes there, some of his students have earned two- and four-year degrees from MSU.

Dr. Broadus B. Jackson came to Morehead State as a professor of history in 1969. Born in Lynch, he obtained his bachelor's degree from



Fisk University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Indiana University. His dissertation, "A History of Public Health Administration in Kentucky, 1920-1940," was published by the Kentucky State Department of Health. Before coming to MSU, Jackson taught history at Elizabeth City State University, Prairie View A & M, Jackson State, and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. He has also been a visiting lecturer at Howard University and the University of Mississippi. Jackson served as chairman of MSU's department of geography, government, and history from 1985 to 1991. His book, *Civil War and Reconstruction in Mississippi: Mirror of Democracy in America*, was published during his last semester of teaching before retiring in June, 1998. While looking back over his 29 years at MSU, Jackson recently stated, "I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Adron Doran. He played a major role in my decision to come here and stay this long rather than accept invitations to move elsewhere to higher positions and salaries in our competitive market."

The current administration is making special efforts to promote multicultural diversity. Known for his efforts to link MSU's past with its future, President Eaglin stated, "Any student who graduates must have an opportunity to train for a most diverse environment. Morehead State saw this early on through the courage of Adron Doran who set a pattern for future presidents to follow. Every president since has concentrated on wedding the institution with equal opportunity and diversity. I take no credit. Diversity has to be a major thrust of the next century. As we train all our students for positions of responsibility in a diversified society, I pledge that we will take our African-American students from where they are and assist in making them ready when they leave here to face the complicated world of the 21st century." Francene Botts-Butler, an African-American administrator, suggested that "President Eaglin has made a great effort to hire additional minority and female employees." While noting that some black students believe that MSU practices institutional racism by making a "head" decision to value diversity rather than a "heart" decision, she expressed a firm belief that "Dr. Eaglin is actually committed to diversity rather than merely giving lip service to it." She felt that "whereas Dr. Eaglin has made a decision to make the institution diverse, some faculty and staff members have not gotten the vision as yet. If MSU is going to be



successful in the 21st century, all students must feel that they are wanted. What we want is empowerment, that is, to be able to take charge of our own destinies. We must be as confident and competitive as we can be."

Mike Mincey, vice president for student life since 1986, observed, "Although issues are probably not of the magnitude of the Sixties and early Seventies, they have not changed a whole lot over the years. Today, there are still occasional racist remarks from passing automobiles and racial graffiti on the walls. But these are things you deal with through education. You hope that individuals learn that such is inappropriate. There are fewer altercations today. The environment is improving. We have seen positive changes in the last ten years during the Grote and Eaglin administrations. President Eaglin's leadership on diversity makes African-Americans and whites more sensitive; I see great progress. Just look at the Martin Luther King Day which was first celebrated on campus in 1983. Ten years ago, there would be 75-100 people, almost entirely African-Americans, involved in this event on campus. A typical recent Martin Luther King Day meeting took place at the Christian Church, and we had almost an equal number of whites and blacks. It was a unity celebration in which various people from the community were also involved." Thus, the MSU administration looks forward to the 21st century with great optimism in dealing with multicultural diversity.

### **"Who's Who" Among MSU's African-American Alumni**

Since 1956 no more than 3.74% of MSU's student body has been African-American in a given year. Yet an astonishing number of blacks have excelled in careers after graduation. With the aid of the Advisory Board, examples have been selected as representative of this impressive group.

*Dr. Marshall Banks* has served as chairman of the health, physical education, and recreation department at Howard University in Washington, D.C., from 1978 to 1989 and from 1993 to the present. After graduating as salutatorian from Booker T. Washington High School in Ashland, he enrolled at Morehead State in 1958, where he became the first black athlete to compete in intercollegiate sports in the OVC. In 1962 he was honored as Morehead State's top physical

education major and received the Len Miller Award as the Eagles' most outstanding athlete. Banks stated that by the time he graduated "segregation was no longer such a big issue, and I began receiving accolades for my prowess in sports." A graduate assistantship then afforded an opportunity for him to earn his master's degree in kinesiology from the University of Illinois. In 1965 he became Morehead State's first African-American member of the faculty. After teaching and coaching at MSU for four years, he returned to the University of Illinois, where he earned a Ph.D. in leisure studies. Banks is currently writing a book entitled *Order on the Court*, a review of experiences of black athletes (beginning with football player Prentice Gault at the University of Oklahoma in 1956) who integrated predominantly white Southern institutions. Banks' publication will include his personal experiences at Morehead State. With his background in kinesiology, he is focusing on human performance in the midst of pressures connected with the integration process. He states that many athletes today often have problems coping socially, academically, and on the court "because they didn't have the support or training a small town like Morehead or Ashland has to offer." MSU has honored its first black athlete by inducting him into both its Athletic and Alumni Halls of Fame and by bestowing upon him an honorary doctorate at its May commencement, 1998.

**Dr. Joanne Bankston**, who attended MSU from 1965 to 1969, has served as the Director of the Cooperative Extension System's National Center for Diversity since its inception in 1992 at Kentucky State University. In 1997, the CES National Center for Diversity conducted over 40 workshops in nine different states and one international event, reaching over 3,500 participants with diversity educational experiences. She had previously been a State Specialist in Family Economics and Management for the Cooperative Extension System. In that position, she was a resource person to county extension agents in Kentucky by developing educational programs in family financial management and consumer education. Bankston had also served six years as a home economics teacher in the Jefferson County Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree from MSU in vocational home economics, a master's degree in family economics and management from Southern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. in extension education from Ohio State



University. *Vicki L. Bankston*, Joanne's sister, also attended MSU (1969-73) and majored in English. After receiving a master's degree in special education from the University of Louisville, she taught English for several years. She is currently manager of Quality Management and Information Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.

*Theodore (Ted) Brown*, Ashland, was the first African-American to graduate from Morehead State. After completing two years at Ashland Junior College (subsequently Ashland Community College), he transferred to Morehead in 1958 and graduated two years later with a double major in accounting and political science. When he arrived on campus, there were eight black males and four black females. Brown lived with Banks and two other African-Americans in a large, end room on the first floor of Thompson Hall. "We were given this room because it had its own tub and shower," recalled Brown who further stated, "There was not much to do, either on campus or downtown. At the few social events on campus, it was awkward. Sandy Miller, one of the four female students, was going steady with Banks, while most of the other girls stayed in their rooms a good part of the time. We couldn't date whites, so most of us young men were wallflowers at dances." He remembers spending time in the grill at the Doran Student House and eating most of his meals in the cafeteria. Brown worked as an accountant 34 years with INCO ALLOYS International in Huntington, West Virginia, where he retired in 1995.

*Dr. Lauretta F. Byars*, graduate of 1970, has served as Vice Chancellor for Minority Affairs at the University of Kentucky since 1990. She is responsible for the supervision and coordination of departments comprising Minority Affairs, the Learning Services Center, Minority Fiscal Affairs, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center, Health Careers Programs, and Minority Recruitment. With Master of Social Work (MSW, 1972) and Doctor of Education (Ed.D., 1982) degrees from the University of Kentucky, Byars was UK's assistant dean for student affairs (1979-80) and executive director, educational talent search, at UK (1972-79). Since 1985, she has been an associate professor in UK's College of Social Work. With experience as a social worker with the Department of Child Welfare in Frankfort, she served as president of the Kentucky Association of Social Work Educators in 1985. Her honors include being recipient of the Carter G. Woodson Award, given by Berea

College for community service (1996), the "Outstanding Black Achiever" Award for the YWCA (1988), and MSU's "Pacesetter" Award (1969). As director of the summer internship program at UK, Byars has obtained over \$1.5 million in external funding. Her relatives graduating from MSU include *Javita Garcia Flynn* (1971), who earned her MSW at the University of Kentucky (1974); *Gail (Gay) L. Flynn* (1977); and *Sheila A. Flynn Newton* (1978). *Don W. Byars*, her husband who serves as senior associate director of admissions at UK, received his bachelor's degree from MSU (1970) and his master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University (1974). After playing basketball at MSU, he was a basketball official for fifteen years with the Ohio Valley Conference, the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Byars has also served UK as associate director of admissions for operations (1985-88), acting director of undergraduate admissions (1984), director of minority and community college services (1975-84), and assistant director of pre-admissions (1972-75). His honors include the Carter G. Woodson Award from Berea for community service (1996), the Community Service Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1993), and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion Award from UK (1981).

*Victor L. Carter* is co-anchor of WJZ-TV's 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. newscasts in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to 1995, he worked at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia, having joined that station in 1982. He anchored their early morning and noon newscasts. From 1980 to 1982, Carter worked as a general assignment reporter for WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina. He began his broadcasting career in 1978 at WSET-TV in Lynchburg, Virginia. At the age of twenty-three, Carter produced a 1981 documentary, "Fed Up with Fear," which described how Raleigh and other American communities were disturbed with their crime rates and hence pursuing efforts to reclaim their neighborhoods. For this he was the recipient of the prestigious Peabody Award. Carter also received the Gavel Award of the Atlanta Bar Association and the Atlanta Press Club and awards from the Atlanta and National Associations of Black Journalists and the Radio Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas. In September, 1997, he was the recipient of the Boy Scouts of America, Baltimore Area Council "Good Scout" award. For his volunteer efforts while in Atlanta, Carter was named one of 12



outstanding Young Atlantans in 1991 and one of Atlanta's Men of Achievement by Southern Bell in 1990. While in Atlanta, he served on the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which decides on Emmy Awards. He currently serves on the board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland and on the Advisory Council of Boys and Girls Clubs of Maryland. Carter is a member of the National Committee that is planning a monument to Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, D.C. A native of Radford, Virginia, he is married and has one daughter. In 1978 Carter graduated from MSU and in 1992 was inducted into the Morehead State Alumni Hall of Fame. While at MSU, Carter received the Broadcasting Honors Scholarship for academic excellence in 1977. He assisted John Merchant in organizing Alpha Phi Alpha, a black fraternity in 1978. When asked how Morehead State prepared him for his career, Carter asserted, "The most important class I ever took was Personal Development, under Carolyn Flatt, which taught me things which I use every day now. When I've gone for interviews for my various positions, they have never checked on my technical training but always on my social skills."

Nothing demonstrates more clearly parents' feelings for MSU than sending their own children here for their college education. Although integration is but four decades old on the campus of MSU, African-American parents have already begun influencing members of their families to attend their Alma Mater. For example, *Leonard Coulter* (health, physical education, and recreation, 1974) and *Jean (Retter) Coulter*, (English, 1974) have a daughter, *Tiffany*, who is a junior at MSU, majoring in government and English. Already a published poet, she plans to enter law school after graduation. Leonard, Jr., is a sophomore soccer player at Louisville Ballard High School. In March, 1998, Leonard Coulter was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame along with fifteen other stars. While playing at MSU, he was selected as the OVC's Freshman of the Year and as a member of the All-American Sophomore Team, selected by *Basketball Weekly*, along with such players as Bill Walton of UCLA and Tom McMillen of Maryland. He was Morehead State's scoring leader and made the All-OVC team in his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. His greatest thrill came in the 1971-72 season when his father chose to deviate from the teachings of

his church by choosing to watch his son perform in a ball game. Not knowing his father was there, Coulter was chasing a loose ball on the sidelines when he caught a glimpse of him in the stands. Coulter was then inspired to achieve one of his most memorable feats, scoring 40 points in the Eagles' 124-99 victory over East Tennessee State. This was the only college game his father ever watched him play. In 1972-73, he averaged 21.3 points while setting a school record for field goal accuracy by making 52.3 percent of his attempts. After starring as one of MSU's seven All-Americans in basketball, the Danville native, a forward, was drafted by both the Seattle Supersonics and the Kentucky Colonels. Coulter, however, takes greatest pride in his teaching and coaching career on the high school level. He served nineteen years as head coach at four Louisville high schools -- Manuel, Shawnee, Seneca, and Brown -- and has been named twice as the Seventh Region's Coach of the Year. His wife, *Jean*, was an MSU cheerleader during her freshman and sophomore years. With a master's degree in reading from the University of Louisville, she has taught in four high schools -- Ahrens, Jeffersontown, Seneca, and Ballard. She is now chairperson of the English department at Ballard. The **Coulters** are one of the eight African-American alumni families which thus far have sent sons or daughters to Morehead State University. And the year 1999 stands out as having more African-American students at Morehead State University than ever before.

*Dr. Bette J. Dickerson*, associate professor of sociology at American University, received her bachelor's degree from MSU, master's from the University of Louisville, and doctorate from Washington State. She has served as executive director of Delta Research and Educational Foundation, as program assistant of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, as program director of the National Urban League, and as a special education teacher in Louisville. Her publications include *African-American Single Mothers: Understanding Their Lives and Families* and *Color, Class, and Country: Experiences of Gender*. She is now chairing American University's Diversity Committee and serving on the Association of Black Sociologists' executive committee, the American Sociological Association's Race and Ethnic section executive council, and as a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.



Her awards include "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" from American University's Office of Multicultural Affairs and "Outstanding and Meritorious Service" Award from the Association of Black Sociologists. A student at MSU from 1968 to 1972, Dickerson was a founder and the first president of Delta Sigma Theta, the first black sorority on the Morehead State campus.

*Jerry Gore* has worked at Morehead State for more than 25 years after receiving three degrees there -- bachelor and master's degrees in health, physical education, and recreation and a master's degree in higher education administration. Before becoming executive director of the National Underground Railroad Museum in July, 1998, he served as director of minority student affairs. In the latter position, he was responsible for increasing enrollment and improving retention and graduation rates of American minority students. Since 1985, enrollment rates of minority students at MSU have increased over 100 percent while retention rates are the best in Kentucky. Gore also served at Morehead State as an advocate in investigations of complaints filed by minority students which contain racial overtones and as an advisor to the Black Student Coalition and the Black Gospel Ensemble; he was recipient of the 1996 Christian Appalachian Project Peace Award, created to honor Kentuckians who exemplify Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to faith and non-violent change. Former President Doran credited Gore "for success in influencing blacks from his area and in working with African-Americans after they arrived on campus. He was a great influence in handling such matters as fraternities and student problems involving black students on campus." Presently serving as executive director of the National Underground Railroad Museum, Gore is a national leader in preserving artifacts of the "Underground Railroad" anti-slavery movement in the area of his hometown, Maysville. He helped found and coordinate the opening of this museum, whose exhibits document how runaway slaves came through Maysville and crossed the Ohio River on their way to freedom. His experience as a historian led to an appearance on the History Channel.

*Dr. Michael W. (Pierre) Jackson*, a 1969 MSU graduate, has served in positions at Indiana University, Louisiana Tech, Grambling, and Temple. A native of Henderson, Kentucky, he holds a bachelor's degree in health, physical education, and recreation from Morehead State, a master's

degree in educational administration from Wright State, and a Ph.D. in health and safety from Indiana University. His coaching positions have included being assistant football coach at Indiana and Grambling, power lifting coach at Louisiana Tech, and track coach for the District of Columbia International Team. At Grambling he was also athletic director and head of the health, physical education, and recreation department for five years. While there, he developed a reputable sports administration department, increasing its size from 12 students in 1976 to 61 in 1981. Jackson is now head of the sports administration department at Temple University in Philadelphia. This program equips students for careers as athletic directors, recreation supervisors, sports information directors, health club managers, promotion directors, arena managers, and related posts. He has placed Temple students in internship positions with the Philadelphia Flyers, the San Diego Chargers, the New York Jets, the Chicago Cubs, and with athletic departments at UCLA, Michigan, Michigan State, Baylor, and Florida. In 1996 Jackson was appointed by the Governor to Pennsylvania's 15-member Sports and Exposition Facilities Task Force, which is charged with finding ways to "finance, preserve, and improve community and professional sports centers in the state." The *Temple Times* describes him as a "smooth-talking, upbeat man who could turn a fast profit selling bagels outside the Grand Mosque at Mecca." With a flair for the dramatic, Jackson once delivered a speech to a convention of educators on the topic, "VD Spells Success," with "VD" standing for visual dimensions. His wife, the former *Judy Proffit*, of Cave City, received a B.S. degree at Morehead State in 1968 and is a medical microbiologist.

*Lyda Florence Lewis* graduated from MSU in 1970 with honors and a B.S. degree in special education. The Maysville native then taught special education in Louisville's Omar Carmichael School. As Miss Louisville, she became the first woman of color to win the Miss Kentucky crown in 1973. She then competed as the only African-American contestant in the Miss America contest in Atlantic City, New Jersey. After completing her year's reign as Miss Kentucky, she joined the Eileen Ford Modeling Agency in New York, where she did print and runway modeling for some of the world's top designers. While working as a model, she appeared in numerous television commercials and feature films in the United States and abroad. Subsequently, she



developed her own consulting firm for young girls seeking careers in modeling.

**Michel Marriott**, reporter for the *New York Times* since 1987, received his bachelor's degree from MSU in 1976 and his master's degree at Northwestern in 1977. He currently covers lifestyle issues, especially as they relate to urban America, youth, and high technology. Other assignments with the *New York Times* have included being City Hall, general assignment, and national education reporter. His work has involved writing articles on the New York drug crisis and poverty in the Bronx. He has been a frequent contributor to the "National Desk," "Week in Review," and "Cultural" sections of the paper. Before coming to the *New York Times*, Marriott worked with the *Philadelphia Daily News* as special projects writer and twice-weekly columnist for the metropolitan staff, with the *Washington Post* as general assignment and city police reporter, and as general assignment reporter with the *Courier-Journal*, where he also covered Jefferson County government and City Hall. As a free-lance writer, Marriott's works have been published in *Esquire* and *Essence*, and he co-wrote the story for the 1995 feature film, *New Jersey Drive*. His honors have included receiving the Frederick Douglass Award, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Feature Writing, four *New York Times* Publishers' Awards, and being nominated twice for Pulitzer Prizes by the *New York Times*. His teaching experiences include serving as visiting lecturer at Antioch College, the City College of New York, Harvard, Kansas State, Norfolk State, Princeton, Temple University, and Xavier University of Louisiana. Marriott has been an adjunct professor and served on the admissions committee for Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

**John C. Merchant**, a 1979 MSU graduate with a double major in political science and economics, was the first African-American to become a partner in Peck, Shaffer, and Williams, the most prestigious law firm in Cincinnati. Merchant commented to a Cincinnati newspaper, "I do think this has a positive impact. The more African-Americans you see in firms, the more the legal society realizes the value of having black partners." His office towers 22 floors above Fountain Square in the elegant corridors of a 109-year-old law firm which receives national recognition for its leadership in bond law. He is in line to become president of the MSU Alumni Association in 1999 upon completing his

term as vice president. Merchant stated, "Morehead taught me many lessons, and not all of them were academic. Because MSU has a convergence of cultures, I became more sensitive and understanding of diverse types of people." After graduation from Morehead State, he earned a law degree from the University of Kentucky and worked four years as an administrative assistant for Lt. Gov. Steve Beshear, followed by another four years as a staff attorney in the Commonwealth's Finance Administration Cabinet in the Office of Legal and Legislative Services. This position helped him to specialize in public finance for governmental entities and the public sector. Merchant was also a member of the Transition Team for the Office of the Governor in Kentucky after serving on the Wilkinson for Governor campaign staff. He is a member of the national Forum for Black Public Administrators and the National Association of Security Professionals and serves on the board of Junior Achievement of Greater Cincinnati. His wife, *Debra Spotts Merchant*, graduated from MSU in 1978. A Lexington native, she is a graduate of the College of Education and the College of Law at the University of Kentucky. She was employed by the Department of Public Advocacy and was appointed by Gov. Martha Layne Collins to serve as an executive assistant at the Kentucky Commission on Women, where she concentrated on legal issues relating to rural women. The Merchants have a nine-year-old daughter, Leah.

*Sandy Miller (Banks)* entered Morehead State in 1958 and graduated four years later with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She then obtained her master's degree at the University of Illinois. She is now retired in Boulder, Colorado, where she has taught fifth grade for 22 years in the Boulder Valley Public Schools.

*Peggy Overly*, Flemingsburg native, is a three-time graduate of MSU, with an AA degree in fashion merchandising, a BS degree in clothing textiles, and an MA degree in adult and higher education. She is currently serving as minority student services coordinator after having been minority student affairs assistant director and minority student recruiter. She is advisor to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Non-Traditional Minority Student Association. In 1995 she spent two weeks in China with First Lady Hillary Clinton and 36,000 other women from around the world who were participating in the Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Women which had as its theme, "Looking at the



World Through A Woman's Eyes." Her daughter, *Ranai*, is also an MSU graduate and is currently pursuing a master's degree in psychology/social work at the University of Kentucky.

*Milford C. Reid, Jr.*, is the Metro editor of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, for which he also previously worked as copy editor and assistant editor of the Feature Section. Before moving to Minneapolis in 1987, he had worked eleven years with the Louisville *Times* as reporter, copy editor, and copy desk chief. He had previously written for the Lexington *Herald*. Reid has reviewed concerts, movies, and plays for both the Louisville and Minneapolis papers. Currently, he is doing video reviews. In 1986, Reid was recipient of the Metro Louisville journalistic award for his critical reviews with the *Times*. This graduate of Louisville Manual served as editor of the *Trail Blazer* during his senior year at MSU. His wife, *Clementine Thompson*, earned a degree in elementary education from MSU in 1977. She has worked as a counsellor at South High School in Minneapolis for five years. They have two sons. Remembering his years at MSU, Reid stated, "I never thought that much about discrimination since I felt fairly comfortable on campus. Once when I was walking downtown as a freshman, a little smiling girl called me 'Nigger,' but most people were friendly." Reid pleasantly recalled, "My teachers at Morehead State were very good; David Brown, journalism teacher, was the main reason I came to MSU." In spite of being called on the carpet by the president a couple of times while he was editor of the *Trail Blazer*, Reid asserted that Doran "seemed to treat everyone the same; he helped to create a good climate on campus, and he looked upon all students as equal, regardless of race."

*Dr. James H. Thomas*, 1963 alumnus, has been Chief of the Section of Vascular Surgery and Program Director of the Vascular Fellowship at the University of Kansas School of Medicine since 1992. He was a charter member of the Honor Society at Morehead State in 1960 and graduated with distinction in 1963. He then obtained an M. D. degree at the University of Kentucky in 1966 as a member of the third graduating class from UK's medical program; his class was only the second to have African-Americans. Thomas' postgraduate education includes an internship at the A. B. (Happy) Chandler Medical Center at the University of Kentucky. He was Chief Resident of General Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1973-74 and Fellow of Surgical

Oncology at the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1974-75. Thomas has served since 1975 as an assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center. In 1989 the University of Kansas bestowed on him the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Margin of Excellence Award. His distinguished honors include being elected vice-president and president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress, where he presented his presidential address, entitled "The Surgical Personality: Fact or Fiction?" Thomas is a member of various national organizations including the Society of University Surgeons, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. He was recipient of the Bronze Star with Combat "V" at Khe San, Republic of Vietnam, in 1968. For three years, he was a Junior Faculty Clinical Fellow of the American Cancer Society. He has published more than 100 articles in professional medical journals. Thomas was inducted into the MSU Alumni Hall of Fame at Founders Day in 1998.

*Dr. Lucian Yates III* earned a BA in history and government in 1974 and an MA in history in 1976. A native of Harrodsburg, Yates obtained a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and supervision from Ohio University and then did post graduate work at St. John's, Xavier, and Ohio State. He has served as a middle school teacher, high school assistant principal (Chillicothe High School in Ohio), high school principal (Western High School in Louisville), and adjunct instructor with Brown University. At the time of accepting a position as superintendent of public schools in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1998, he was an assistant superintendent for equity and poverty issues in the Jefferson County Schools, which have 97,000 students. Yates is a nationally and internationally sought consultant on high school restructuring and school-to-work issues. In 1994, he appeared with President Bill Clinton, Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, and Secretary of Education Richard Reilly on a nationally televised call-in talk show at the National Town Meeting in Washington, D.C. His wife, *Vietta Bolden*, Mays Lick, also attended Morehead State.

## Conclusion

Morehead State University and its African-American students have come a long way together since the days of pioneering integration. President Doran, who led the institution during the tumultuous years of



1956 to 1970, blazed a trail for subsequent administrations to follow. Even through the pains of the integration process, MSU's African-American students prevailed. The outstanding accomplishments of black alumni in the face of adversity are testament to their strength and their determination to succeed, leaving in place a strong legacy for those who follow.

With the formation of the Office of Multicultural Student Services, MSU is forging ahead to establish an overall program of inclusion and to embrace the diversity of its student population on every front. While admittedly the University has had its difficulties attracting African-American faculty and administrators, it continues in its quest to bring additional African-American leaders to campus. At the same time, the University is leading the way toward a more diversified Morehead community, easing the transition for people of color into Eastern Kentucky through education and awareness.

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Dr. Marshall Banks  
Sandra A. Miller (Banks)  
Dr. Joanne Bankston  
Dean Lemuel Berry, Jr.  
Francene L. Botts-Butler, J.D.  
Theodore ("Ted") Brown  
Don W. Byars, II  
Dr. Laurette F. Byars  
Victor L. Carter  
Leonard Coulter  
Dr. Bette J. Dickerson  
Jerry Gore  
Eric E. Howard  
Dr. Broadus B. Jackson  
Dr. Michael W. (Pierre) Jackson  
Annie Ruth Lomax (Juanso)  
Jacqueline C. Love  
Michel R. Marriott  
George A. Mays  
Debra S. Merchant  
John C. Merchant, J.D.  
Wayne L. (Box) Miller  
Dr. Donna L. Murphy  
Peggy Overly  
Milford C. Reid, Jr.  
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